

chest support subassembly is attached to adjustment means attached to a mid-portion of the support post, and that the adjustment means are adapted to allow the chest support subassembly to be slid back and forth relative to said mid-portion of the support post.

Basis for these amendments are found in the drawings, in the specification at page 4, line 25 to page 5, line 2, and in originally submitted claim 3.

2. Claim 4: This claim has been amended to recite that the arm pad support plate is attached to the support post between its mid-portion and its lower end.

Basis for this amendment is found in the drawings and in the specification at page 5, lines 15-24.

3. Claims 6 and 7: These new claims are original claims 2 and 3 rewritten in independent form with all of the limitations of their antecedent claims. The Examiner indicated that such rewritten claims would be allowable.

4. Claims 2 and 3: In view of these claims being rewritten in independent form as newly submitted claims 6 and 7, claims 2 and 3 have been canceled.

B. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102:

Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Riach (5,401,078).

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently

present. See MPEP, Section 706.02.

Riach does not teach the following:

1. Claim 1:

a. --"said chest support subassembly being attached to adjustment means attached to a mid-portion of said support post--". Riach's chest support subassembly 50 does not appear to have adjustment means; it moves only in response to how far the legs 25 and 26 are separated. If Riach has adjustment means, it is not attached to a mid-portion of her support post 15, but is attached to its top.

b. --"said adjustment means adapted to allow said chest support subassembly to be slid back and forth relative to said mid-portion of said support post--". As stated above, Riach does not appear to have adjust means, and certainly no adjustment means that allow the claimed adjustment action.

c. --"said arm support subassembly being attached to a portion of said support post between its mid-portion and its lower end--". Riach's arm support 51 is connected to support post 15 between its mid-portion and its top.

2. Claim 4:

a. --"said arm pad support plate being attached to said support post between its mid-portion and its lower end." Riach's arm support 51 is connected to support post 15 between its mid-portion and its top. In addition, claim 4 in a dependent claim containing all of the limitations of its parent claim 1, and, therefore, Riach does not teach those missing elements discussed above relative to claim 1.

3. Claim 5:

a. --"said support leg is adapted to be received and held by a conventional IV clamp attached to an operating or examination table." Riach does not teach having such a support leg. Riach has two "support legs" 15 which are attached to cross members 25 and 26. In addition, claim 5 is a dependent claim containing all of the limitations of its parent claim 1, and, therefore, Riach does not teach those missing elements discussed above relative to claim 1.

C. The objections to claims 2 and 3:

As previously discussed, claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 6 and 7. The Examiner stated that rewriting claims 2 and 3 in independent form would overcome the objections.

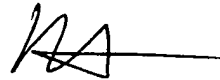
D. Conclusion:

The Examiner indicated that claims 2 and 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 2 and 3 have been written in independent form as newly submitted claims 6 and 7. Therefore, newly submitted claims 6 and 7 are clearly allowable.

As discussed above, there are numerous elements in amended claims 1, 4 and 5 that are not taught or suggested by Riach; therefore, it is requested that the rejection of these claims as being anticipated by Riach be withdrawn.

An early Notice of Allowability is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Howard', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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